

August 23, 2022

Dear Denise Cahill,

Abstract ID#11

We are pleased to inform you that your abstract below has been accepted for the 2022 Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference! Your abstract will be presented during the parallel sessions as well as included in the Conference Book of Abstracts.

The 2022 Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference will be a hybrid conference, although we encourage presenters to attend in person if possible. The registration for the conference will open on 1 September 2022 and in your registration, you can indicate how you will participate in the conference – in person in UN City or Online.

Please note that each city and national network in the Healthy Cities Network has a limit to the size of their delegation attending. If you are not a Network Coordinator, we encourage you to contact your Healthy City or National Network Coordinator to share your abstract acceptance and confirm a seat in the delegation.

As we get closer to the conference, we will contact you and ask you to re-submit your final abstract (500 words or less) to be included in the 2022 Book of Abstracts. We will also share the provisional programme, so that you know when your presentation will take place. Please note that you will have a 10 minute presentation followed by 5 minutes of question and answer with the audience.

Please contact the Healthy Cities Secretariat at eurohealthycities@who.int if you have any questions regarding the 2022 Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference.

Warm regards,

WHO Healthy Cities Secretariat

Accepted Abstract:

(1) Title

Green Spaces for Health

(2) Context: issue or a problem + policy and organizational context

Built environments can adversely impact the health of people and the natural environment. Air, water and noise pollution, caused by poor quality housing; inadequate sewage services; lack of public transport systems; and insufficient green infrastructure & green spaces, is resulting in increasing levels

of infectious, non-communicable and respiratory diseases in urban areas (World Health Organization, 2021b); as well as environmental degradation caused pollution, reduced biodiversity and loss of natural habitats (World Health Organization, 2021a).

(3) Rationale: reasons for taking the initiative

In Cork City there are several commitments to the development of sustainable approaches to ‘greening the city’ (Cork City Development Plan 2015 – 2021), incorporating social inclusion measures. The Cork City Centre Strategy 2014 sets out the vision to revitalise the city centre and it is working with stakeholders to revitalise particular areas of the city centre with a ‘combination of investment in the public realm, grant schemes, and dereliction sites action’.

(4) Description: of the case study including methods used, processes, politics and time-frame

Established in 2018, Green Spaces for Health is a community-led initiative and engages in a range of greening projects across the city. Guided by Healthy Cities at a European-level and by the six themes of the Copenhagen Consensus, Cork Healthy Cities Action Plan (2020-2030), identifies Green Spaces for Health as a priority action area under the theme ‘Planet’. Green Spaces for Health is committed to supporting the development of resilient and inclusive communities, through the creation of opportunities for community members to come together and to connect with nature. Green Spaces for Health (GSFH) has been very active in maintaining existing green spaces and seeking out new greening opportunities that have included community food growing in the city.

(5) Achievements: impact at strategic/operational level, critical success factors and challenges, lessons learnt

This paper will outline the key successes of Green Spaces for Health in Cork City in establishing 6 diverse and uniquely developed community growing projects on public land, the Greening Our Cities Webinar Series, the Tree Audit of South Parish, effectively growing a community of interest in greening and communal food growing.

(6) Conclusion

. Green Spaces for Health has extended the understanding of greening to encompass deep ecology, protecting biodiversity, creating new habitats, supporting green energy initiatives in our homes and businesses, recycling and up-cycling, harnessing permaculture principals, encouraging city dwellers to become citizen scientists.